

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                    1.        A method of determining spatial target probability using a model of  
2 multisensory processing by the brain, said method comprising the steps of:  
3                    acquiring at least two inputs from a location in a desired environment where  
4 a first target is detected;  
5                    applying said inputs to a plurality of model units in a map corresponding to  
6 a plurality of locations in said environment;  
7                    approximating a posterior probability of said first target at each of said  
8 model units;  
9                    finding a model unit with a highest posterior probability;  
10                   choosing a location in said environment corresponding to said model unit  
11 with a highest posterior probability as a location of a next target.

1                    2.        The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least two inputs  
2 are sensory inputs.

1                    3.        The method as defined in claim 2, wherein said at least two sensory  
2 inputs are video and audio inputs.

1                    4.        The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said posterior probability  
2 is a conditional probability of said first target given said at least two inputs.

1                    5.        The method as defined in claim 4, wherein said posterior probability  
2 is computed using Bayes' rule.

1                    6.        The method as defined in claim 5, wherein said posterior probability  
2 is approximated using a sigmoid curve function.

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1                   7.     The method as defined in claim 5, wherein said posterior probability  
2 is approximated using a linear function.

1                   8.     The method as defined in claim 5, wherein said posterior probability  
2 is approximated using a bounded linear function.

1                   9.     The method as defined in claim 4, wherein said posterior probability  
2 is approximated using a sigmoid curve function.

1                   10.    The method as defined in claim 4, wherein said posterior probability  
2 is approximated using a linear function.

1                   11.    The method as defined in claim 4, wherein said posterior probability  
2 is approximated using a bounded linear function.

1                   12.    The method as defined in claim 4, wherein said next target is the  
2 same as said first target.

1                   13.    A method of determining spatial target probability using a neural  
2 network model of multisensory processing by the brain, said method comprising the steps  
3 of:

4                   training a plurality model units in a map corresponding to a plurality of  
5 locations in a desired environment to output a desired value when an actual target is  
6 detected;

7                   applying at least two inputs from said actual target in said desired  
8 environment;

9                   finding one of said model units with a highest desired value; and

10                  choosing a location in said environment corresponding to said model unit  
11 with said highest value as a location of said actual target.

14. The method as defined in claim 13, wherein said training step includes:

- positioning a training target at a random location in said desired environment;
- acquiring at least two inputs from said training target;
- applying said at least two inputs said plurality model units in said map and obtaining actual responses of said model units;
- generating desired responses for said model units;
- finding differences between said actual and desired responses; and
- using back-propagation to reduce said differences between said actual and desired responses.

15. A camera apparatus for automatically tracking a target in a known environment, said system comprising:

- at least one audio and at least one video sensors for receiving audio and video signals from the target;
- a controller for receiving said audio and video signals from said audio and video sensors and determining a probability of the target being at a location in the environment using a program modeling mutisensory processing of the brain;
- at least one of a moveable directional audio and video sensor for turning to a location in the environment where a target probability is high as determined by said controller.

16. The apparatus as defined in claim 15 wherein said modeling program approximates a posterior probability of the target given said audio and video signals from the target.

17. The method as defined in claim 16, wherein said posterior probability is approximated using a linear function.

1 18. The method as defined in claim 16, wherein said posterior  
2 probability is approximated using a bounded linear function.

1 19. The method as defined in claim 16, wherein said posterior  
2 probability is approximated using a sigmoid curve function.

1 20. The apparatus as defined in claim 15 wherein said modeling program  
2 approximates Bayes' rule for calculating target probability given said audio and video  
3 signals from the target.

1 21. The method as defined in claim 20, wherein said Bayes' rule is  
2 approximated using a linear function.

1 22. The method as defined in claim 15, wherein said Bayes' rule is  
2 approximated using a bounded linear function.

1 23. The method as defined in claim 15, wherein said Bayes' rule is  
2 approximated using a sigmoid curve function.

1 24. The apparatus as defined in claim 15 wherein said modeling program  
2 estimates said target probability by training a